

Message Text

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ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 EPA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 L-03 /036 W
-----083569 061124Z /23
R 050811Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6355

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DEPT PASS EPA SHOSTAL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, UR, US
SUBJECT: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: ECOLOGY OF THE WOLF
(02.05-103)

REFS: (A) 77 STATE 301829, (B) 77 STATE 301838

1. ON JANUARY 5 HYDROMET REP INFORMED EMBOFF THAT SOVIET WOLF DELEGATION PROBABLY WOULD BE UNABLE TO COME TO THE U.S. IN JANUARY, AS WAS PROPOSED IN REF A. HYDROMET REP SUGGESTED THAT U.S. AND SOVIET WOLF SPECIALISTS COULD DISCUSS POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF VISITS DURING MEETING OF 02.05 WORKING GROUP IN EARLY FEBRUARY. (REF B) HYDROMET REP ALSO INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR U.S. SPECIALISTS TO BRING AN EXAMPLE OF THE RADIO TRACKING COLLAR, WHICH THE SOVIET SPECIALISTS COULD STUDY DURING 02.05 WORKING GROUP MEETING. HYDROMET REP NOTED THAT SOVIETS WOULD SEND LETTER ON THE WOLF DELEGATION SHORTLY.

2. HYDROMET REP AND KRINITSKIY OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAVE INFORMALLY INDICATED TO EMBOFF THAT SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS ARE COMPLICATING FACTOR IN EFFORTS TO ARRANGE AN EXCHANGE IN RADIO TRACKING OF WOLVES. THESE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVE THE USE OF RADIO TRANSMITTERS, WHICH KRINITSKIY SAID THE SOVIETS

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WOULD HAVE TO EXAMINE BEFORE ALLOWING THEIR OPERATION IN THE USSR, AS WELL AS ACCESS TO CERTAIN TERRITORIES IN WHICH THE U.S. SPECIALISTS HAVE PROPOSED TO DEMONSTRATE RADIO TRACKING TECHNIQUES. IF AN EXCHANGE IS ARRANGED, U.S. SPECIALISTS WOULD PROBABLY BE ALLOWED TO VISIT ONLY THE CAUCASIAN WILDLIFE PRESERVE, BUT UNFORTUNATELY WOLVES ARE SCARCE THERE, ACCORDING TO THE HYDROMET REP.

3. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF THESE PROBLEMS, SOVIETS HAVE TOLD US
THEY REMAIN HIGHLY INTERESTED IN EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS OF WOLF
SPECIALISTS, AND IN BROADER SUBJECT OF RADIO TRACKING OF WOLVES
AND OTHER ANIMALS. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED
IN PARA 2, AS WELL AS VIRTUAL ABSENCE OF SOVIET EXPERIENCE IN
RADIO TRACKING OF WOLDLIFE, U.S. WILL HAVE TO TAKE HARD LOOK
AT BALANCE OF BENEFITS IN TOPIC.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, ECOLOGY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW00202
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780010-0283
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780197/aaaaddnx.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1ad18be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INT
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 301829, 77 STATE 301838
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3824797
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: ECOLOGY OF THE WOLF (02.05-103)
TAGS: SENV, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1ad18be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014